Legal Notice Malheur National Forest, USDA Forest Service

South Silvies Complex Grazing Allotments Environmental Analysis

The Emigrant Creek Ranger District of the Malheur National Forest is initiating a 30-Day scoping period on the South Silvies Complex Grazing Allotments Environmental Analysis. The analysis area includes the Big Sagehen, Silvies, and Bridge Creek allotments. The planning area is located in Grant and Harney Counties 18 miles north of Burns, Oregon, encompassing about 54,506 acres within the Silvies River Watershed. The legal description is: Township 17-20 South, Range 30-32 East, multiple sections.

The Emigrant Creek Ranger District proposes to continue authorizing livestock grazing on three grazing allotments within the South Silvies Complex planning area using adaptive management strategies designed to meet Forest Plan standards and guidelines. Some elements involved with the proposed action may include analysis of grazing rotation strategies, riparian area protection, development of upland water sources, construction of new fencing, and modification of existing fence locations.

More information can be obtained by contacting Marion Mahaffey at 541-575-3302, or email marionmahaffey@fs.fed.us, or on the web at http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/malheur/landmanagement/projects.

Written comments should include your name, address, and (if possible) telephone number; organization represented, if any; title of the document/project on which the comment is being submitted; specific facts or comments along with supporting reasons you believe the Responsible Official should consider in reaching a decision; and your signature.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d) any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets.

The Forest Service will inform the requestor of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requestor that the comments may be resubmitted with or without names and addresses.

We invite your comments as your input will help us decide how to proceed with this project. Specific, solution-oriented comments that focus on the proposed project or identify issues with the proposal would be the most useful in our planning efforts. This specific input will help us develop alternatives that address those issues.

Written comments concerning the project may be submitted using the following methods: Postal mail or hand delivery: Malheur National Forest, c/o Marion Mahaffey, Range NEPA Coordinator, 431 Patterson Bridge Road / P.O. Box 909, John Day, Oregon, 97845 (if hand delivering, submit during business hours,

8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays); or via email message at FS-comments-pacificnorthwest-malheur-emigrantcreek; or via Fax: 541-575-3158.

Although written or verbal comments are welcome at any time, they will be most useful if submitted to me in writing by December 14. 2018. Please submit your comments to: Aaron Gagnon, Acting District Ranger Emigrant Creek Ranger District c/o Marion Mahaffey, NEPA Coordinator 431 Patterson Bridge Road PO Box 909 John Day, OR 97845

The project team leader, Marion Mahaffey, can be reached at (541) 575-3302.

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